



Weekly Information & Communication



February 29, 2016

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Conference Call Minutes

The minutes for the February 25, 2016, BPCP conference call, are posted to the [Montana WIC webpage](#). The next gathering will be face-to-face at the Montana WIC Program Spring Meeting and Breastfeeding Learning Collaborative.

Documenting Threshold Income

It has come to our attention, that when you have an income that is on the threshold, for example an applicant makes \$419 weekly; SPIRIT kicks it out as over income. If this happens, enter a penny value (0.01) in SPIRIT. Then, please document in notes what happened. Thank you for your patience regarding the recent income workaround, and bringing this issue to our attention. If you have questions, please refer to Leah LSeinle@mt.gov or Kelly KAughney@mt.gov.

SIS Verification Errors

There are known SIS Verification errors that results in staff not being able to validate eligibility for some participants. This is only known to affect participants with multiple SIS returns. There is a workaround, so please call the WIC Help Desk (1-800-433-4298, opt 1) if you come across the error.

New Publication on Montana WIC Breastfeeding Data

The State Office of Epidemiological Statistics and Support completed [this data analysis](#) of breastfeeding at hospital discharge comparing WIC participants (during pregnancy) to non-WIC mothers with similar characteristics known to impact breastfeeding. Good news (although not surprising) is that Montana WIC appears to make a very significant difference in breastfeeding rates at the hospital! All that great work you do providing information during pregnancy and anticipatory guidance really matters.

We know you all do a fantastic job, and it is so nice to see it show with numbers. Thank you!

WIC Website Changes

There have been some changes to the WIC website. There is a Nutrition section which contains Clinical information, Educational Resources, and Prescriptions & Medicaid information. There is a Breastfeeding section which contains Breastfeeding forms, and the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor meeting minutes. Please take some time to review these new sections.

Computer Equipment Purchases

If your clinic is on the state network and you want to purchase equipment on your own, please coordinate hardware purchases with the state. We cannot allow unapproved equipment to be placed on the state network, so we will work with you to be sure your purchase is approved and properly configured for the network.

WIC Help Desk: 1-800-433-4298, Option 1

Help Out With UPC Scanning

As Montana WIC prepares for EBT we will be building a database of the Universal Product Codes (UPC) for all WIC authorized foods. This will include physically visiting grocery stores and using a handheld scanner to collect these codes in order to capture every WIC item that is actually out on the shelves. Travel will be required for this project, and we are seeking any local agency staff interested in helping by scanning some of the stores in their areas. We will scan stores in the pilot area (about 25 stores in the counties surrounding Lewis & Clark) beginning in early summer and will begin scanning statewide late summer through early fall. If you are interested in doing some UPC scanning, please contact [Kevin](#) and we follow up with you when the scanning schedule is developed to provide training. There may be some funds available for costs associated with scanning.

Weekly Risk Code Highlight

[Risk Code 372](#) Alcohol and Illegal Drug Use. For Pregnant Women:

- Any alcohol use
- Any Illegal drug use.

For Breastfeeding and Non-Breastfeeding Postpartum women:

- Routine current use of ≥ 2 drinks per day. A serving or standard sized drink is: 1 can of beer (12 fluid oz); 5oz wine; and 1 ½ fluid ounces liquor; or
 - Binge drinking, i.e., drinks 5 or more drinks on the same occasion on at least one day in the past 30 days; or
 - Heavy drinking, i.e., drinks 5 or more drinks on the same occasion on 5 or more days in the previous 30 days; or
 - Any illegal drug use
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March Outreach Idea

In the month of March, visit your local YMCA, community fitness center, Planned Parenthood, community health center, or any other community based programs. Try to leave outreach brochures with income guidelines, and posters wherever they are most visible.

Chop Chop Magazine

The third quarterly Chop Chop Magazine will ship on March 3, 2016. Be on the lookout for it.

What's New in the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Webinar

The Bell Institute is offering a free webinar on the updates and changes to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. It will be held on March 3, 2016, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm MST. [Registration](#) is required. If you are interested in WIC CEUs send the completed information form to lalittle@mt.gov.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2014 Supplement

The AAP published a supplement in September 2014 with many articles on the information found in the follow-up of children who participated in the Infant Feeding Practices Study II. Many of them are appropriate for WIC CEUs. After completing the article, send the information to lalittle@mt.gov.

The articles are found at http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/Supplement_1.toc on the Table of Contents for the Supplement.

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